



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **SECRETARY HERZFELDER APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE**

#### ***Appointment of James Hanlon a Key Part of State Environmental Law Reform Efforts***

Massachusetts Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder today announced the appointment of a new permanent Director of the Office of Environmental Law Enforcement (OLE). The appointment of James J. Hanlon as the permanent Director of OLE comes as the Secretary moves to reform the office by improving its operations and delivery of services to constituents and agencies that depend on the assistance of environmental law enforcement. James Hanlon has served as Acting Director of OLE since July of 2004 and has a broad background that includes 25 years of environmental and public safety expertise.

"We have worked together with many stakeholders to develop a plan for the Office of Environmental Law Enforcement that will better enable it to fulfill its most critical mission – enforcing all laws and regulations relative to natural resource protection in the Commonwealth," said Secretary Roy Herzfelder. "I am excited to appoint James Hanlon as the new Director. He is a qualified professional with the background, education, and experience to best protect the environment and natural resources of Massachusetts. His appointment represents a major milestone in advancing Governor Romney's commitment to improving the environmental health and quality of life in our state."

In July of 2003, Secretary Roy Herzfelder, as authorized by the Legislature, began the reform of OLE by moving it under the control of the Secretary's Office. The Secretary also launched a comprehensive review of OLE and its operations that invited input from a diverse group of organizations and agencies to ensure that the review was thorough and inclusive. A report produced by the Environmental Law Enforcement Review Panel was presented to the Secretary in March that provided a list of recommendations deemed "critical" to improving OLE's operations. These key recommendations focused on the development of a succinct and achievable core mission, important attributes of the new Director, resource allocation and fiscal accountability, agency structure and entrance requirements for environmental police officers.

“I have worked with James Hanlon for years on important law enforcement issues critical to the coast of Massachusetts,” said Jack Clarke, Director of Advocacy for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. “Most recently Jim provided real leadership as we both served on the Massachusetts Environmental Law Enforcement Task Force. Mass Audubon applauds the Secretary’s appointment.”

“Environmental laws are meaningless without effective enforcement,” said David Peters, Chairman of the Environmental Law Enforcement Review Panel and Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. “I am confident that the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations will better enable our Environmental Police Officers to effectively and efficiently deliver critical law enforcement services to the public. Appointing James Hanlon as the agency’s Director is an important first step.”

“Jim did an outstanding job as Acting Director at OLE and we look forward to working with him in his permanent role to enhance, preserve and protect our State Park system,” said Stephen Pritchard, Acting Commissioner for DCR.

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